

# MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

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## Cost Savings and Efficiency Work Group

March 11, 2003

4:00 p.m., Room 113, County-City Building

**MEMBERS:** Present - Russ Bayer, Jennifer Brinkman, Mark Brohman, Carol Brown, Jon Carlson, Brian Carstens, Duane Eitel, Mark Hunzeker, Rick Krueger, Greg MacLean, Melinda Pearson, Roger Reynolds, Jerry Schleich, Greg Wood, Patte Newman, Allan Abbott (non-voting)  
Absent - Duane Hartman

**OTHERS:** Kent Morgan, Karen Jensen, Jan Gauger, Steve Masters, Nick McElvain, Michele Abendroth

Mr. Bayer opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Mr. Bayer then asked if there were any comments from the public; there were none.

The group acknowledged and thanked Mr. Morgan for all his efforts during this process.

Mr. Bayer stated that today's meeting would focus on reviewing the *Report of Findings and Recommendations* prepared by Mr. Morgan. It was clarified that any typographical errors would be given to Mr. Morgan following the meeting.

In respect to force mains, under *Service Considerations*, Mr. Carlson questioned if there were considerations for the capacity that exists in the gravity system and the degree to which the basin that it is serving is still capable of being built out if a force main or lift station is put in.

Mr. Schleich pointed out that it should be first come first served and should be market dictated.

Mr. Bayer asked Mr. Abbott how this recommendation would change the way things are done today. Mr. Abbott responded that it gives the probability of the force main being used more. Mr. Schleich stated that if Lincoln wants to have concentric growth as planned, in order to develop southwest Lincoln, a development that has a lift station would have to be approved.

Mr. MacLean noted the recommendation states, "These systems would be replaced at such time as gravity flow services become available." For clarity purposes, the group decided to add "and lift stations" after "force main" in the recommendations under the subheading, *Temporary Wastewater Services Using Alternative Practices*. Mr. Hunzeker stated that his concern is it being interpreted in some way to serve as a short circuit to making the investment in trunk lines,

and he believes that it is important that we maintain our focus on making the investment in trunk lines to facilitate the development that is shown in the Plan. He added that he is not certain that the recommendation adds anything to the statement in the Comprehensive Plan.

Under *Special Funding Districts*, Ms. Brinkman questioned the meaning of the sentence, “As applicable, use of special funding districts needs to demonstrate extreme caution with the farming community.” Mr. Bayer stated that there was concern that the farmers would be forced to do something they did not want to do and have to pay for it. Mr. Schleich noted that we need to be sensitive to the farmers who are truly making their living off their land. Mr. Hunzeker stated that for the benefit of the City, we should not put in any more incentives in place for people to hold ground out of production use for urban expansion. He added that he believes that statement should not be in the document and stated that although we cannot and should not force someone to develop their land, we should not provide incentives for them not to either. Mr. Schleich suggested adding a statement in regard to the greenbelt qualifications. The group agreed to replace the above sentence with the following: “As applicable, use of special funding districts needs to protect the farming community as discussed in the Comprehensive Plan.” Mr. Hunzeker requested a vote to not include the statement in the document. There was not a majority vote for this request, so the revised statement will be reflected in the document.

Discussion then centered on *Statement of Intent*. Mr. Krueger asked Mr. Abbott if it was accurate that street construction projects are not started until all of the needed money is in the bank. Mr. Abbott stated in past practice, that has been true. However, recently the City Council has supported multi-year contracts, although they must be voted upon by the City Council. Mr. Bayer stated that this should be clarified in the document.

Under *Engineering Drawings*, Ms. Pearson suggested deleting the sentence in the box, “Note the power and responsibility and assumption of liability that comes with the engineer’s stamp of approval.” She also suggested the addition of a sentence regarding City staff preparing a checklist of required information that would define a complete product. The group agreed to these recommendations.

Under *Construction Inspection Program*, Mr. Krueger stated that it was his understanding that the City doesn’t inspect, they observe. Mr. Abbott stated that there are observers and inspectors, and consultants are hired to inspect and they have the power to shut projects down. The group decided to add observation to the title and appropriate sentences.

Under “*Outside-In*” *Street Phasing*, Mr. Krueger pointed out that there is no “one size fits all” approach when building streets.

Discussion then turned to the subject, *Bury Overhead Lines*. Mr. Abbott stated that he thought the discussion pertained to why does the City pay to move LES lines when the lines are on street right-of-way. He noted that he found out it was a handshake agreement back in the late 1980’s and there is not a written policy on it. He stated that he understood that the group wanted LES to pay to move the lines -- not just agree to have them moved at City expense. Mr. Bayer suggested

wording to the effect of requiring LES to pay to move the lines. Mr. Hunzeker then questioned if we should require water and sewer to do the same. Mr. Abbott also questioned placing the cost of sidewalks along arterials back in the subdivision agreement.

Mr. Hunzeker stated that we should talk about burying distribution lines as opposed to transmission lines. The difference is that LES will resist very strenuously because of cost to bury the high-voltage transmission lines, and they have not resisted burial of distribution lines.

Mr. Bayer summarized the proposed recommendations as follows: bury overhead distribution lines, have utilities pay for the movement of their own transmission lines when on street right-of-way, and move the cost of sidewalks on new arterials to the developer and take it out of impact fees. The group agreed to reflect these recommendations in the document.

The group expressed their appreciation to Karen Jensen for her work during this process.

Mr. Bayer suggested that there be a statement in the document detailing the amount of money saved and the amount of money deferred if all the suggestions are implemented. The group agreed to this suggestion.

Mr. Bayer asked the group to give any further proposed changes to Mr. Morgan by next Tuesday so that he can make the appropriate changes for submittal to the full committee at their next meeting on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bayer thanked the group for their work and stated that it has been a good experience. In turn, Mr. Schleich thanked Mr. Bayer for his work in chairing the work group.

Mr. Bayer then adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

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